

awarded the Oliver Hill Award for Social Activism by the National Black Law Students Association for her efforts in battling against social injustices.

On behalf of the Judiciary Committee, its staff, and this distinguished body, I would like to thank Michelle for her exemplary work, generosity, sense of humor, and loyalty over the past five years. She will be sorely missed as a colleague, advisor, and friend. We wish her the best of luck and extend to her our deepest gratitude.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION
OF H. RES. 567, ESTABLISHING
SELECT COMMITTEE ON
BENGHAZI

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 2014

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the rule for H. Res. 567, which establishes a Select Committee on the Events Surrounding the 2012 Terrorist Attack in Benghazi.

I oppose this resolution because it is a distraction, intended by the House Republicans to divert public attention from their failure to address the problems Americans care about like creating jobs, raising the minimum wage, passing immigration reform, and extending unemployment insurance benefits to the long-term unemployed.

Mr. Speaker, instead of working with Democrats to address the priorities of the American people, Republican leaders are gearing up to exploit the tragic attacks in Benghazi with another deeply partisan review.

There have already been seven reviews of that terrible attack: one by the State Department Accountability Review Board, two bipartisan reviews in the Senate, and four reviews in the House—producing more than 25,000 documents and dozens of interviews with high-level officials throughout the government.

Mr. Speaker, responding to endless, repetitive and partisan congressional requests has cost the Department of Defense and other agencies thousands of man-hours and expenses running “into the millions of dollars,” according to Assistant Secretary of Defense for Legislative Affairs Elizabeth King.

Throughout these reviews, Republican Members have made numerous accusations in public that have turned out to be untrue after further investigation, undermining the credibility of their investigations and the House.

Mr. Speaker, our colleagues across the aisle have shown no interest in making the Select Committee on Benghazi any different from the extreme and counter-productive partisanship that has defined their previous investigations into the Fast and Furious and the IRS, and their dogged efforts to hold the Attorney General in contempt of Congress.

For example, in the resolution establishing the committee, Republicans stack the committee with seven Republicans to Democrats’ five, and explicitly exempt the new committee from adopting written rules.

From the pointless vote to hold former IRS official, Lois Lerner, in contempt, to the latest committee on Benghazi, it is clear that Repub-

licans will do anything to divert attention away from their do-nothing record.

Mr. Speaker, the American people deserve better. They want and deserve for us to work together to solve the real problems facing our country.

I urge my colleagues to reject this rule and vote against the underlying resolution.

IN RECOGNITION OF DR. JENNIFER
PETT-RIDGE

HON. ERIC SWALWELL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 9, 2014

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an exemplary scientist at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL) in Livermore, California.

The Department of Energy’s (DOE) Office of Science has selected Dr. Jennifer Pett-Ridge to receive funding as part of the Department’s Early Career Research Program (ECRP). Her project, entitled “Microbial Carbon Transformations in Wet Tropical Soils: The Importance of Redox Fluctuations,” was selected by the Office of Biological & Environmental Research.

The ECRP is crucial to our ability to maintain American leadership in science. It was created to support the development of individual research programs of outstanding scientists early in their careers and stimulates research careers in the disciplines supported by the DOE Office of Science.

Dr. Pett-Ridge is the lead scientist of LLNL’s Genomic Science Biofuels Scientific Focus Area and is a Deputy Group Leader of the Isotopic Signatures Group within LLNL’s Chemical Sciences Division. She received her B.A. in biology and environmental studies and her M.S. in forest sciences from Yale. Her Ph.D. in soil microbial ecology from the University of California at Berkeley was earned in 2005.

Awardees were selected from a large pool of university and national laboratory-based applicants. Selection was based on peer review by outside scientific experts.

I am privileged to represent LLNL and its brilliant scientists like Dr. Pett-Ridge. Their hard work and skill are what keeps America secure and at the forefront of scientific innovation. I want to congratulate Dr. Pett-Ridge and wish her well in her work with ECRP.

SUCCESS AND OPPORTUNITY
THROUGH QUALITY CHARTER
SCHOOLS ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 2014

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 10) to amend the Charter School Program under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965:

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Chair, I rise in support of the Success and Opportunity Through Quality Charter Schools Act, a bill that strengthens the existing charter schools pro-

gram while including important reforms for accountability and access.

Public charter schools are an important testing ground for new ideas and innovative practices that can benefit our entire school system. Today’s bill supports the expansion of high quality charter schools while making vital improvements to the program to increase oversight and access. While current law requires charter schools to be open to all students, this bill would encourage enrollment and retention of underserved populations like students with disabilities and English language learners. It also enhances charter authorizing practices to include quality controls for student achievement and management.

I applaud the Education and Workforce Committee for working in a bipartisan fashion to bring this legislation to the Floor. I hope that we can apply that same spirit of cooperation to fully reauthorize the Elementary and Secondary Education Act and improve education for all students in every public school.

IN RECOGNITION OF TAMARAC
CITY COMMISSIONER DIANE
GLASSER

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 9, 2014

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my dear friend Diane Glasser, who currently serves on the City Commission for Tamarac, Florida. I have been lucky to work with Diane for many years to make Florida a better place for all Floridians, but, for over 40 years, I have been even luckier to call Diane a friend. It is a 40-plus year friendship that has meant the world to me, and I thank her for it.

Diane hails from Mill Basin in Brooklyn, New York. She went to high school and college in New York, but then in 1973, we in Florida were lucky enough to entice her down our way—getting to avoid those New York winters probably helped us look like a good place to live too. Diane moved to Florida with her husband who was a 100 percent disabled veteran having served bravely in World War II. Diane’s husband, due to the injuries he suffered fighting for his country, was unable to work, but this did not stop him from being a tireless advocate for veterans. I think Diane would agree that her husband’s advocacy helped in part in laying the ground work for her future successes as an advocate for the members of our community.

After working in the construction industry for 12 years, Diane was ready for something new. Mr. Speaker, my friend Diane turned her tremendous energy and insight to helping the members of her community by volunteering for her local Democratic Party. Of course, Diane was not going to volunteer here and there. No, instead, Diane, through dedicated effort, went from starting as a volunteer and worked her way to First Vice Chair of the Florida Democratic Party. In addition, she was elected to the Democratic National Convention as a National Committeewoman, and was appointed to the Electoral College.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of all Floridians and members of the Democratic Party, I would like to thank Diane for her tireless work in pursuit